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| DATE:    | August 17, 2001   | FILE NO: | AMAT/3049/CPES/DT/PJS   |
| TO:      | Examiner Lan Vinh   | FAX NO:  | (703) 305-8599-<br>6018 |
| COMPANY: | United States Patent and Trademark Office   |          |                         |
| FROM:    | Robb D. Edmonds   | PAGE(S): | with cover 8            |
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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 5, 2001

U.S. Serial No. 09/206,027  
Filing Date: December 4, 1998  
Inventor: Cohen, et al.  
Examiner: L. Vinh  
Group Art Unit: 1765

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**PATENT**  
**PES/DT/PJS**

Any. Dkt. No. AMAT/3049/CPES/DT/PJS

In re Application of:  
Cohen, et al.

**Serial No.: 09/206,027**

Confirmation No.: 4950

**Filed: December 4, 1998**

**For: Plasma Preclean With  
Argon, Helium, and  
Hydrogen Gases**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Dear Sir:**

**Group Art Unit: 1765**

**Examiner:** L. Vinh

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August 17, 2001  
Date

**Signature**

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 5, 2001**

In response to the Final Office Action dated June 5, 2001, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 5, 2001, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 20-0782/AMAT/3049/BTP, along with any other fees to make this response timely.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The pending claims are as follows:**

1. A method for processing a substrate in a processing chamber, comprising exposing a patterned substrate surface to a plasma generated from a gas mixture consisting of argon, helium and hydrogen, wherein the gas mixture comprises less than about 75% by volume of argon.